

# Comprehensive Sustainability Plan Progress Report 2024

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE





After one year since the announcement of University of Vermont's inaugural Comprehensive Sustainability Plan, UVM has made strong progress towards achieving carbon neutrality through the following initiatives:

- Purchase of local carbon offsets
- Exploring geothermal energy
- Installing EV charging and purchasing electric fleet vehicles

# Decarbonization

**PROGRESS TRACKING**

- ✓ = ACHIEVED
- ↗ = ON TRACK
- ↘ = CAN IMPROVE

## ENERGY & CLIMATE

**GOAL:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) 60% below 2007 levels by 2024.

✓ **PROGRESS:** Purchased Vermont carbon offsets from the Vermont Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy to cover our Scope 3 emissions.

**GOAL:** Carbon neutral by 2030.

↗ **PROGRESS:** Development of a campus energy plan and launch of Decarbonization Advisory Group are underway.



Plans for 57 new fleet electric vehicle (EV) charging ports and 69 new public charging ports, marks a significant increase in campus charging and represents the **largest EV charging investment from an employer in the State of Vermont.**

## BUILDINGS

**GOAL:** Reduce GHG emissions in major University buildings.

↗ **PROGRESS:** UVM drilled the first of two geothermal test wells this spring to investigate the feasibility of geothermal energy on campus. Mapping utility metering infrastructure on campus to prioritize buildings with high energy use is a priority.

## TRANSPORTATION

**GOAL:** Reduce GHG emissions associated with the UVM fleet.

↗ **PROGRESS:** Increased number of EVs in fleet to 25. The first 10 ports of fleet specific networked EV chargers were installed.

**GOAL:** Reduce conventional single-occupancy vehicle commutes.

↗ **PROGRESS:** Launched a new bikeshare program. Added a third CarShare Vermont car to campus. Two new bike parking shelters accommodating over 100 bikes installed on campus.

# Research & Learning

**GOAL:** Launch Sustainable Solutions Lab (SSL) and cultivate research that uses campus as a "living lab."

↗ **PROGRESS:** The SSL hosted three graduate and one undergraduate student in the first cohort. Secured funding for additional students.

Sustainable Solutions Lab student, Erin Camire, tagging trees on campus.

# Operations

## FOOD & DINING

**GOAL:** Increase spending on Vermont-grown food to 25% by 2030.

↗ **PROGRESS:** UVM Dining increased the local food availability in retail locations and catering, and launched the Vermont Burger Co.

## WASTE

**GOAL:** Reduce total pounds of waste generated per campus user 10% by 2035 from 2019 baseline.

↗ **PROGRESS:** Total amount of waste generated decreased in FY23 compared to 2019 baseline.

**GOAL:** Increase composting and recycling by a combined 10% or more by 2035 from 2019 baseline.

↗ **PROGRESS:** Total amount of materials recycled increased from FY22 to FY23. A campus-wide waste characterization study has been recommended and approved by the Sustainable Campus Fund.



UVM Dining increased partnership with Global Village Foods, a small, black-owned, family business in Vermont that creates ready-to-eat, African inspired cuisine.

## LANDSCAPE

**GOAL:** Prioritize the purchase of electric grounds management equipment.

↗ **PROGRESS:** Developing a formal standard for the prioritization of electric equipment is under discussion.

**GOAL:** Increase the acreage of sustainable and native plantings on campus.

↗ **PROGRESS:** All garden beds were mapped and evaluated for pollinator friendliness. The suggested plant list provided in design standards was revised to be more sustainable.

Map of pollinator friendly garden beds and trees. The areas in green are the most pollinator friendly.

# Governance and People

## INVESTMENTS

**GOAL:** Increase percentage of positive sustainability investments and shareholder advocacy.

✓ **PROGRESS:** Achieved in 2024.

## PURCHASING

**GOAL:** Improve purchasing practices to increase sustainable purchases across the University.

↗ **PROGRESS:** Office of Sustainability has begun reviewing relevant RFPs to recommend opportunities for enhancing sustainability.

**GOAL:** Implement the CSP and revise the Plan on a five-year basis.

↗ **PROGRESS:** Created Sustainability Leadership Committee and launched implementation committees.

Drilling geothermal test wells is a key step in implementing the CSP.

